conference and gave valuable suggestions to improve implementation of the family welfare programme. These suggestions are being actively pursued for implementation.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Closure Plan of HFC Units

1396. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will **the** Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the **news** item "Pressure mounts to shelve HFC units' closure plan" appearing in 'Hindustan Times' dated 7th July, 2000; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) While a decision has already been taken by the Government to close/hive off the Haldia Fertilizer Project which could never be commissioned, the revamp of the Namrup Unit of Hindustan *Fertilizer* Corporation Ltd. (HFC) has also been approved. Comprehensive rehabilitation proposal based on unit wise techno-economic viability for the remaining units of HFC it to be submitted to the competent authority in the Government and thereafter, for final sanction of BIFR.

Fertilizer Policy review Committee

1397. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the High-Powered fertilizer policy review committee has submitted its recommendations;

(b) if so, whether these have been scrutinised; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, with Government's action thereon and to what extent they have been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) The High Powered Fertilizers Pricing Policy Review Committee

(HPC), constituted in January 1997 under the chairmanship of Prof. C.H. Hanumantharao to review the existing system of subsidization of urea and suggest an alternative broad-based, scientific and transparent methodology, submitted its report to the Government in April 1998. The recommendations of the Committee have been examined in the Government in detail. The recommendations of HFC will be kept in view by the Government while announcing the long term policy for the fertilizer sector and the new pricing policy for urea units, after obtaining the approval of the competent authority.

Compensation to Bhopal Gas tragedy victims

† 1398. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the balance of the amount of compensation with Government that was received from Union Carbide for the Bhopal Gas Tragedy victims and for which purpose this amount is earmarked;

(b) whether the Madhya Pradesh Government has demanded an amount of Rs. 316 crores under second action plan; if so, whether it has been sanctioned; if not, by when this amount would be sanctioned;

(c) whether funds are being provided to Madhya Pradesh Government for the ongoing schemes for gas victims, particularly for medical and rehabilitation purpose; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) According to information given by the Reserve Bank of India, a sum of Rs. 478.52 crore is the balance in dollar component as on 25.7.2000. This amount, in accordance with the order of the Supreme Court, is earmarked for payment of compensation.

(b) to (d) The Central Government had approved a five year Action Plan for the Medical, Social, Economic & Environmental rehabilitation of Bhopal Gas Victims with a total outlay of Rs. 163.10 crore which was increased in stages to an outlay of Rs. 258 crore.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.